212 The percentage of literacy is probably rather over 40 per cent among men and under 20 per cent among women in Lebanon; in Syria it is considerably less.

871 There are four main types of school in the country. First there are the official schools maintained by the departments of education of the Syrian and Lebanese Governments. Secondly, there are a small number of privately-owned 'national' schools, so called because they are inter-sectarian and do not give religious instruction. Thirdly, there are schools maintained by the religious communities indigenous to the country, sectarian in control and in the content of their instruction. They are the most numerous of all; and the majority of them are maintained by the Christian communities. Finally, there are schools controlled and subsidized by foreign organ-

Grade of Education	Institutions or Courses				Scholars			
	Lebanon	Jebel Druze	Latakia	Rest of Syria	Lebanon	Jebel Druze	Latakia	Rest of Syria
Elementary education	1,867	90	194	839	131,515	5,334	15,381	101,096
Secondary and technical education and teachers' training courses ..	104	—	6	42	9,803	—	643	7,398
Higher education ..	28	—	—	5	1,228	—	—	356

(In addition, there were some hundreds of students studying abroad, in Egypt, in France and other European countries and in the United States.)[1]

izations. Practically all of them, with the exception of those belonging to the French 'Mission Laïque' and the 'Alliance Israélite', are maintained by Christian missionary societies. The majority of them are controlled by French Catholics of various religious orders; next in importance are those maintained by American Protestant missions. There are also British and other foreign schools. These foreign institutions are of particular importance because they include the two main centres of higher learning in the country, the two Universities in Beirut.

In 1938 the first type of school accounted for 31 per cent of the total number of scholars; the second and third between them for 49 per cent; and the fourth for 20 per cent. In

[1] For detailed educational statistics, see Ministère des Affaires Etrangères, *Rapport, 1938*, pp. 214-15.

14:International Bank S-5 (1954)1955 MD1 Syria MD1

community has been "investment conscious" and has engaged in little conspicuous spending except perhaps for housing.

Predominance of Private Enterprise

A characteristic feature of Syria's rapid economic development is that it has been almost wholly due to private enterprise. In spite of frequent changes in government, private enterprise has retained a buoyant outlook and continued to expand. Manufacturing industry developed with little or no government support, except that in recent years the government has provided some financial assistance and considerable protection against foreign competition. Although the government has slowly increased its services to agriculture and may be said to have contributed to its expansion by interposing no bars to the occupation and cultivation of new land, it did not play a significant role in the great increase in output. Even the development of irrigation has been left primarily to private enterprise, which has extended the irrigated area by sinking wells and, above all, by installing pumps on river banks. Thus only 48,000 hectares are irrigated by government schemes, whereas 250,000 hectares are irrigated by privately installed pumps. In the field of transport, as already indicated, private motor carriers have assumed the burden of increased traffic despite poor public roads.

The most significant, though indirect, contribution made by the government to development has been in the field of education. Increased outlays on education account for almost half of the total postwar expansion in non-defense ordinary budget expenditures, which rose from an actual total of £S 70.9 million in 1945 to an estimated figure of £S 125 million in 1954. During this period the number of schools and pupils more than doubled. The literacy rate has probably been lifted to around 40%, which compares favorably with most Arab countries. In the field of communications the government has been active, notably in the development of the port of Latakia and in the expansion and improvement of the telephone network.

The Syrian economy has now probably reached a stage in its development at which the government must undertake a more important promotional role. It is unlikely that in the future private enterprise will be able to maintain, unaided, the past rate of expansion. The amount of idle land that can be put to the plow without significant investment has

15: Khadduri S-4 (no date) 1951 MDl Syria MDl

Arab heritages, equipped with knowledge, aware of its duties and obligations, working for the general welfare, imbued with the spirit of collaboration and fraternity among all citizens." (Article 28.) To achieve these ends the State undertakes to supervise all educational institutions in the country and to formulate programs to be applied in the various stages of training. The State alone has the right to grant and to standardize school certificates. Further, a Board of Education is to be set up to formulate educational policy and plans, the composition and functions of which are to be defined by law.

Military service is compulsory, the justification being that the defense of the country is a "sacred duty" and that the Army is the guardian of the Fatherland. The family is the basis of society and is to be protected by the State. The State protects and encourages marriage and endeavors to remove the material and social obstacles which hinder it.

The transitional provisions of the Constitution specify that within ten years from its coming into force illiteracy must be eliminated from the country. Another provision relates to the formulation of a plan for the gradual settlement of the tribes.

Finally, the Constitution stipulates that no amendment is to be made for two years. Thereafter the Constitution may be amended either by a proposal from the President with the approval of the Cabinet and Parliament if one-third of its members submit an application to this effect. Parliament will then consider the proposed amendment; if approved by an absolute majority, it is considered approved as a motion. If it is rejected, the rejection is final and no application for the amendment of the same article can be submitted again for one year. Six months after the adoption of a motion in favor of amendment, Parliament can begin to discuss the proposed alteration. A two-thirds majority is required for approval.

APPRAISAL

The Syrian Constitution of 1950 clearly reflects the influence of both the new European constitutions and the recent course of Arab nationalism. The socialistic trends reflect a realization of the need of rebuilding the social-economic system, which had

3:Royal Institute of International Affairs U-4 (no date)1954 MI Middle East
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In neither country is there an officer caste or a strong military tradition, though the present Syrian regime is trying to create one.

Social Survey

The ruling class in both countries is drawn from wealthy families; titles do not exist and the 'old' rich families, whose position and wealth come from land, mix freely with the 'new' rich families, whose money comes from commerce. There is no stigma in engaging in trade and even members of the upper class are merchants. A middle class of functionaries and employees has been growing up since 1948 in the three main cities. Their flats, between the splendour of the rich quarter and the huddle of the *suq*, are being built in quantities and their new, middle-class way of life is based on European standards. The mass of the people are artisans and labourers. The urban artisan approaches the middle class and the rural labourer approaches the hard life of the nomad; for the farm labourer the standard of living is generally low.

The Press

The press of both countries is important but no one paper or group of papers has established an ascendancy. Damascus had at one time over twenty daily papers none of which could guarantee a circulation of over 3,000. The same state of affairs holds true in Beirut where most parties issue Arabic and in some cases French papers; there are also Armenian newspapers and one English daily.

Individual Lebanese have founded papers and *Le Commerce du Levant*, published in Beirut, has a standing comparable with *La Bourse Egyptienne*. In both countries press censorship has frequently closed down a paper only for it to re-emerge under another name, and in Syria the military dictatorship has reduced the press to a mere mouthpiece of official propaganda.

Education

In both countries there are primary and secondary schools, and the number of schools and students increase each year. Primary education is compulsory, and although reliable figures of literacy are not available,[1] it may be assumed that the percentage of illiterates is decreasing in both countries, but is higher in Syria than in Lebanon. In Syria, most of the schools are run by the state and of the private schools (which are

[1] An estimate for Syria for 1947 given in UN, Dept. of Social Affairs, *Preliminary Report on the World Social Situation*, 1952, was 40–50 per cent.

29:Dunn S-4 (1952)1952 MI Middle East
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CHAPTER II

COTTON IN SYRIA

000 One of the oldest countries in the world with a new-found independence and a new government, fired with ambition and restrained with pride, Syria is struggling against tradition to modernize its practices and remold its economy. A strange contrast of the old and the new is everywhere apparent. The struggle to change is sometimes painful and often frustrating.

Since the country was created only nine years ago, conditions have been hectic and chaotic, marked with military uprisings and three coup d'etats, the last of which brought in the present military dictatorship last year.

Nevertheless, progress has been remarkable. With large profits made during and after the war, the Syrians have done more in modernizing their homes, farms, and factories than had been done in a thousand years before. They have made conspicuous improvement in their roads, irrigation system, schools, and health programs.

Still the standard of living of the people as a whole is miserably low, and their mode of life for the most part is as primitive as it was in the time of Christ.

BACKGROUND

133 311 The resources of Syria are abundant, capable of supporting an economy of a much higher order and a much larger population. This fairly large country with an area of about 72,000 square miles (practically the size of the State of Oklahoma) is located along the eastern shores of the Mediterranean Sea.[27]

The eastern half of Syria is desert, broken only by the Euphrates River and its tributaries. In the west, stretching from the two principal mountain ranges, is a series of broad, fertile plains. There is a small coastal plain along the shores of the Mediterranean. The principal limitation is lack of water. Utilization of water for irrigation has increased ten-fold, but the potential from the Euphrates and Orontes River systems is much greater.

162 212 The population is estimated roughly at 3.5 million, of which three-fourths are rural and directly dependent on agriculture.[28] In the time of the ancients these lands supported two or three times as many people. Most of the people today are Moslems. Although more emphasis now is being placed on education, about three-fourths of the people are still illiterate.

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[27] *Statesman's Yearbook, 1949*, p. 1348.

[28] *Report of the United States-Syria Agricultural Mission*, United States Department of Agriculture, 1947, p. 7.

63:Simmons et al G-5 (1941-1951) 1966
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sory, according to law, but barely one half of the children are now registered in schools. Outside of Damascus, the literacy rates probably do not exceed 40 per cent among the men and 10 to 20 per cent among the women. Schools are maintained by the government and by private organizations, both national and foreign. The Syrian University, in Damascus, is one of the leading Arab institutions in the Middle East. It includes faculties of law, science, arts and medicine, with subordinate departments of dentistry, pharmacy and nursing, as well as an advanced school for teacher training. An engineering school is established at Aleppo, and, in 1952, a new school for the training of village teachers, with emphasis on home economics and agriculture, was under construction near Damascus.

Vital Statistics

Due to lack of demographic data among large segments of the population, few valid statistics are available. Theoretically, the registration of births and deaths is compulsory, but in the rural areas, away from centers of population, reporting is incomplete. Government officials estimate that the accuracy of the recorded statistics approximates 90 per cent in the cities, but 30 to 60 per cent in the villages, over one half of which have less than 200 inhabitants. Considering the country as a whole, probably 50 to 80 per cent of the births are recorded and, since certificates are required for burial, a slightly higher percentage of the deaths. According to published statistics for 1948, the birth rate for the entire country was calculated at 19.1 per 1,000 population; the death rate, at 6.5 per 1,000 population. The birth rates ranged from 35.3 in the city of Damascus to 9.0 in the rural province of Al Jazira; the death rates, from 13.2 to 2.3, respectively. Evidence derived from informal surveys in different localities, however, suggests that the true birth rates average 30 to 40 per 1,000 population and the death rates 15 to 30 per 1,000 population.

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